

Purari language

Purari (Namau) is a Papuan language of Papua New Guinea.

Contents
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Names</div></div><div><div></div><div>Classification</div></div><div><div></div><div>Pronouns</div></div><div><div></div><div>Phonology</div></div><div><div></div><div>References</div></div><div><div></div><div>Further reading</div></div><div><div></div><div>External links</div></div></div></div></div>

Names

Purari is also known as *Koriki*, *Evorra*, *I'ai*, *Maipua*, and *Namau*. "Namau" is a colonial term which means "deaf (lit.), inattentive, or stupid (Williams 1924: 4)." Today people of the Purari Delta find this term offensive. F.E. Williams reports that the "[a]n interpreter suggests that by some misunderstanding the name had its origin in the despair of an early missionary, who, finding the natives turned a deaf ear to his teaching, dubbed them all 'Namau'." (Williams 1924: 4). Koriki, I'ai, and Maipua refer to self-defining groups that make up the six groups that today compose the people who speak Purari. Along with the Baroi (formerly known as the Evorra, which was the name of a village site), Kaimari and the Vaimuru, these groups speak mutually intelligible dialects of Purari.

The name *Baimuru* (after Baimuru Rural LLG) is given in Petterson (2019).^[5]

Classification

Noting that the few similarities with the Eleman languages may be because of loanwords, Pawley and Hammarström (2018) leave it as unclassified rather than as part of Trans-New Guinea.^[1]

Pronouns

Pronouns are 1sg *nai*, 2sg *ni*, 1pl *enei*. The first may resemble Trans–New Guinea *na, but Purari appears to be related to the Binanderean–Goilalan languages.^[3]

Phonology

Unlike most other neighboring Papuan languages, Purari (Baimuru) is non-tonal.^[5]

Purari	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	near the mouth of the Purari River in Gulf Province ^[1]
Native speakers	7,000 (2011) ^[2]
Language family	<div>Binanderean–Goilalan^[3] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purari</div>
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	iar
Glottolog	pura1257 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/pura1257) ^[4]

References

1. Pawley, Andrew; Hammarström, Harald (2018). "The Trans New Guinea family". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. **4**. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 21–196. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.
2. Purari (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/iar/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
3. New Guinea World, Oro – Wharton Range (<https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/oro-wharton-range>)
4. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Purari" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/pura1257>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
5. Petterson, Robert. 2019. *Interesting Features of Porome: An Isolate Language of PNG* (https://www.langlxmlanesia.com/15_Porome_Petterson.pdf). Paper presented at the LSPNG 2019 Conference. 30pp.

Further reading

- Holmes, J. H. (January–June 1913). "A Preliminary Study of the Namau Language, Purari Delta, Papua" (<https://zenodo.org/record/1449616>). *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. **43**: 124–142. doi:10.2307/2843165 (<https://doi.org/10.2307/2843165>). JSTOR 2843165 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2843165>).
- Williams, F.E. (1924). *The natives of the Purari Delta*. Port Moresby: Government Printer.

External links

- TransNewGuinea.org database (<http://transnewguinea.org/language/purari>)
- Materials on Karnai are included in the open access Arthur Capell collections (AC1 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC1>) and AC2 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC2>)) held by Paradisec
- Paradisec has an open access collection from Tom Dutton (TD1 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/TD1>)) that includes Purari language materials

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Purari_language&oldid=940923204"

This page was last edited on 15 February 2020, at 13:58 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.